

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 2, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:24 pm on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, township volunteer Megan Schaaf

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7 (cancelled), Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from September 4, 2012 were approved, motioned by Frank Esposito and 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Krishnan with all in favor.

Green Team Meeting

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair - 7:25-7:46

GREEN TEAM MEETING

Sustainable Jersey for Bronze certification was submitted on September 23, 2012. CTEC reviewed actions submitted, not submitted and deferred. Options to be certified are: pass and receive certification; comeback with errors – two weeks to correct, or not qualify. Easement action and NRI need to be completed by April 2013. Steve Carroll will continue as Green Team Chair but will not act as the lead on Sustainable Jersey after this round. Mr. Carroll will finish the remainder of the certification process ending in April 2013. CTEC discussed the continuation of the Green Team regarding Sustainable Jersey, additional support and resources are needed. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair.

SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

F. Esposito motioned to nominate Steve Carroll for the position of Vice-Chair of the Environmental Commission and Shankar Krishnan 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Block 139, Lot 3.04, August 16, 2012, 62 Spring Valley Road. Application for LOI. Parcel is 2.6 acres of vacant land, almost entirely wetlands. NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

CLOSED. Block 130, Lot 26. Lake Road. May 2012. Application to NJDEP for LOI. LOI issued for reconstruction of existing home. NO COMMENT NEEDED FOR THIS APPLICATION.

PENDING. T MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC, Block: 62, lots: 52 & 54. 7-19-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for temporary wireless communication tower and associated equipment. Tower will be constructed on the upper field at Esternay Field. NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME.

PENDING. Eveleth, 340 Lafayette Avenue, B 102.11, L 10.01. 3-14-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances to enlarge a house near a stream and wetlands. CTEC memo sent to Board of Adjustment suggesting applicant obtain an LOI. Applicant is now applying for an LOI. CTEC memo noting proximity of wetlands to site to NJDEP approved and sent.

CLOSED. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, applicant or representatives did not attend. Memo was sent from CTEC to BOA. BOA denied the application in June 2012.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison. Green Development Checklist Subcommittee to be reviewed at Oct. 15 meeting. Bhee application (Fairmount Avenue) regarding steep slopes was not heard, applicant had to rescheduled to the October 15 meeting.

Open Space Committee report. S. Krishnan - Open Space Committee liaison. Open Space appointed a Communication Chair and formed a group from within to expand and strengthen the communication between committee and township residents. They are in support and following the NJ Wildlife Action Plan Resolution No. 2012-155 that was approved by the Township Committee.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito – Chair asked for CTEC members to review Environmental Commission's webpage and list changes to be considered. Will consider having composter's available for residents to purchase at cost. MUA is having an awards dinner on November 2. The Township will be receiving two awards, one for the rocket composter at the high school and one for single stream recycling video. Megan Schaaf, new volunteer to CTEC sent out press releases to three newspapers regarding the Green Fair held on September 22, 2012.

Recycling Committee report. Township Committee needs to approve a recycling contract for next year. Tonnage figures are up by 4%. F. Esposito - Chair.

## DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Site visit October 6, 9 AM, corner of Crestwood and Lafayette – pending application. D. Stillinger, S. Carroll, F. Esposito
- NRI revision. The current draft is on the Township website. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- Green Village Pond Conservation Area on Township property on Green Village Road. Open Space Committee is urging formal protection of the former Stoller parcel so the area will be eligible for grants. CTEC is pursuing cleanup and construction of a nature trail. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.
- Consider subscribing to the DEP's news service. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel>

## RECENT LETTERS SENT

- September 2012. Letter to NJDEP urging care in delineating wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01.
- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.

## EVENTS

- October 19, 2012, Friday. Passaic River Symposium V, "Today's Status, Tomorrow's Perspective", University Hall Conference Center, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums/>. They will give CTEC a discount on the registration - we pay \$57.50.
- October 20, 2012, Saturday, ANJEC Environmental Congress. "The Clean Water Act at 40 - Keeping the Promise". 9am - 3:30pm, Middlesex County College, Edison. Governor Jim Florio, Keynote Speaker, NJDEP Commissioner, Bob Martin (invited) Featured Speaker. Usually about \$65 for ANJEC members, which we are.

- November 2, Friday. 25th Annual Recycling Awards Dinner, "Food for Thought: the Past, the Present, and the Future of Recycling. Hanover Manor, East Hanover, NJ.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Letter, 8-8-12, from BPU in response to CTEC letter concerning vegetation management along ROWs. BPU says that pesticide application is a matter for the DEP, not BPU. BPU says that when PSE&G notifies township that ROW maintenance will be done the township should raise any concerns, but the notification is so vague that it's not clear whom to contact or how.
- Notice, 8-23-12, of application of High Gate at Chatham (Gunn, Longview) to NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval Permit for a sanitary sewer extension.
- Notice, 8-23-12, of application of Chatham Township to NJDEP for a Treatment Works Approval Permit to convert the Chatham Glen Wastewater Treatment Plant to a pumping station, to install a force main from Chatham Glen to existing gravity sanitary sewers in Fairmount Avenue, and to install a force main from WTP#1 on Tanglewood Lane to the Passaic River.
- Notice, 9-7-12, of application of Chatham Township to NJDEP for an Individual Flood Hazard Permit and wetlands General Permit to construct force mains as mentioned above.
- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:05 PM

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary